

REMARKS

A telephonic interview was conducted on August 23, 2004 with Examiner Nguyen. Applicants sincerely appreciate the courtesy granted by the Examiner during said telephone interview. During the interview, claims 9-13 were discussed. The Examiner reiterated his position that these claims lack proper dependency and suggested that by placing claims 9-13 in independent form, the objection to these claims could be overcome. Although Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's position, Applicants agreed to submit redrafted claims in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion. No exhibits or demonstrations were shown, no prior art was discussed, and no other pertinent matter was discussed.

This paper is in response to the Action dated July 22, 2004, in which the Examiner stated that the application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters and that prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11 (453 O.G. 213). Claims 1-17 are currently pending in the present application. Claims 18-21 have been canceled herein without prejudice, claims 1-8 and 14-17 have been allowed, and claims 9-13 have been objected to.


The Examiner has objected to the specification for certain informalities. Particularly, the numeral 140 was used inconsistently in paragraphs [0039] and [0044]. Paragraph [0044] is amended herein to correct this typographical error.

The Examiner has objected to claims 9-13 as being improperly dependent claims in failing to comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112, fourth paragraph. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's position. However, in the interest of furthering prosecution of the pending claims, Applicants have rewritten claims 9-13 to be in independent form, as suggested by the Examiner in the telephone conversation of August 23, 2004. As the objected-to claims have been rewritten in independent form, Applicants respectfully submit that the question of improper dependency has been rendered moot, and these objections should therefore be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the objections have been obviated and the pending claims are in condition for immediate allowance. If there are any questions relating to the instant application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,
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